

Hand delivered, courier or overnight delivery applications are accepted during the normal working hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays), on or prior to the established closing date. All packages should be clearly labeled as follows: Application for Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity-Building Program. The address for these applications is: OCS Operations Center, 1815 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

The printed **Federal Register** notice is the only official program announcement. Any corrections to this announcement will be published in the **Federal Register** as well as published on the ACF World Wide Web Pages. The Web site is <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/frpa.htm>.

Although reasonable efforts are taken to assure that the files on the ACF World Wide Web Pages containing electronic copies of this Program Announcement are accurate and complete, they are provided for information only. The applicant bears sole responsibility to assure that the copy downloaded and/or printed from any other source is accurate and complete.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LCG OCS Operations Center, 1-800-281-9519; e-mail: [OCS@lcgnet.com](mailto:OCS@lcgnet.com). ACF intends to post answers to frequently asked questions on the ACF Web site at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs>. Required application forms are available at: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This program announcement consists of four parts: Part I: Background and Program Purpose—legislative authority, background, applicable legal rules, and program purpose and objectives; Part II: Project and Applicant Eligibility—eligible applicants, funding availability and instruments; Part III: The Review Process—intergovernmental review, initial ACF screening, general instructions for the Uniform Project Description, competitive review and evaluation criteria, and review process; and Part IV: The Application Process—required forms, application limits, checklist for complete application, application submission, and Paperwork Reduction Act.

## **Part I. Background and Program Purpose**

### *A. Legislative Authority*

Funding under this announcement is authorized by section 1110 of the Social Security Act governing Social Services Research and Demonstration activities

and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003, Pub. L. 108-7.

### *B. Background*

Faith-based and community organizations have a long history of providing an array of important services to people and communities in need of charitable services in the United States. These groups have unique strengths that government cannot duplicate. They often operate very close to the daily lives of individuals and families in need and, thus, can reach needy individuals and families that government cannot reach. They hold the trust of their community neighbors and leaders and have great understanding of the needs of the community and its systems. As a result, they are well positioned to understand the needs of individuals and families, particularly those struggling with homelessness and at-risk youth. Furthermore, the sense of mission from which these organizations work often translates into a unique approach to service delivery, a dedication of service to others, and a cultural awareness specific to their surrounding communities.

In recognition of this history and ability, President Bush believes it is in the public's interest to broaden Federal efforts to work with faith-based and community organizations, and he has made it a priority to ensure that these groups are treated on an equal footing with other organizations that apply for Federal funding. A key part of the effort to enhance and expand the participation of faith-based and community groups in serving those in need is the Compassion Capital Fund Capacity Building program described in this announcement.

Organizations will use these one-time grants to improve their capacity to provide services in a sustainable way. ACF believes that organizations working together—rather than in isolation—are best positioned to address their community's problems. Therefore, ACF will give a preference to applications submitted by an organization that is a member of a partnership or coalition of faith-based and/or community organizations that are working together to address the needs of at-risk youth or the homeless. This preference will be extended to those partnerships or coalitions consisting of three or more faith-based and/or community organizations located in the same geographic region that have worked together for at least one year before applying for CCF funding.

CCF Capacity-Building awards will enable grantees to improve program

effectiveness and organizational management in diverse ways. The goal is to help promising organizations to bolster their sustainability and ultimately be able to serve more people on a continuing basis. Applicants must describe, in concrete terms, their plans for using funds to improve their organization in a sustainable way. Grantees should use these awards to increase efficiency and capacity; these awards cannot be used to augment or supplant direct service delivery funds. For example, an organization that distributes food to the poor will not receive a grant simply to purchase additional food. Nor, for example, will an organization that provides substance abuse treatment services receive additional funds simply to enable it to provide exactly the same services to more people. Although these awards might well enable these organizations to assist additional individuals, they would not serve to improve the organizations' sustainability, efficiency, or capacity. Rather, the organizations would simply use additional funds in the same way that it used existing funds, without fundamentally changing or improving its services. The program described in this announcement is part of this year's CCF program. ACF expects to award approximately 50 grants totaling \$2.5 million.

### *C. Legal Rules That Apply to Faith-Based Organizations That Receive Government Funds*

CCF Capacity-Building monies shall not be used to support inherently religious practices such as religious instruction, worship, or proselytization. Grant recipients therefore, may not and will not be defined by reference to religion. Neutral criteria that neither favor nor disfavor religion must be employed in the selection of grant recipients. For further information concerning the legal rules that apply when faith-based organizations receive government funds please visit Guidance to Faith-based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government at <http://www.fbc.gov>.

### *D. Program Purpose and Objectives*

The purpose of the Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity-Building Program is to increase the capacity of faith-based and community organizations with a proven track record of serving the needs of at-risk youth or the homeless. This will be accomplished by funding experienced faith-based and community organizations, especially partnerships and coalitions of faith and community